

AGENDA ITEMS

**VILLAGE BOARD
MEETING**

11/12/2014

S.W.Johnson Engine Co.#2

**5 School Street
Wappingers Falls, NY**

Company By-Laws

**Adopted
December 3 1934**

Review and Updates
July 2014

By-Law Committee

Anthony Galucci
Robert Viscusi
Matt Brace

Ronald Raffaele (Chairman)

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Article 6
Duty of Committees in General

Section 4
Membership Investigating Committee

The Membership Investigating Committee shall consist of three (3) Members appointed by the President to serve a period of one (1) year. It shall be duty of this Committee to **rigorous** investigate the character, health and qualifications of all persons proposed for membership in this Company. The Committee will consist of the Vice President as Chairman, one Trustee, and one Line Officer.

For the probationary/cadet program, a parent or guardian must be present during the interview meeting.

Article 7
Application for Active Membership

Section 2

All **unrestricted** Active Members upon admittance into this Company will within one (1) year successfully complete the Firefighter I training course or its equivalent.

All Active Members will be responsible for attending six (6) Meetings and six (6) Drills from the time they are elected a Member until the end of their probationary period of one (1) year. The Secretary will be responsible for keeping attendance at the meetings and the Captain shall be responsible at Drills and Fire Calls.

Every Active Member must meet current O.S.H.A and/or N.F.P.A. guidelines as defined by the Department and must attend a minimum of six (6) drills, six (6) meetings six miscellaneous activities (such as work details and equipment checks) and 10% of the Fire Calls per year. Failure to do so without valid reason, to be questioned by the Captain, will result in dismissal from the Company. **Probationary members are not considered unrestricted active members until they reach the age of 18.**

Section 3

No person under the age of **sixteen (16)** years of age shall be proposed or elected a member of this Company.

Section 7

Any active member who does not meet the residency requirement, as specified in Article 7 Section 4 or is under the age of eighteen (18) will not be eligible to hold a firematic (Line Officer) position.

The residency requirement for Chief, 1st Assistant and 2nd Assistant Chief's of the department shall be determined by the Village Board of Trustee's.

Article 11

Duties of Active (Unrestricted) Members

Section 5

Duties of Restricted Probationary Firefighters

As a Restricted Probationary Firefighter, members serve in a support role for the active unrestricted firefighters at actual emergencies as a supplement to a formal training program. The Firefighters attend training drills with the Company and Department as well as Monthly Meetings and weekly equipment tests. They may participate in other activities as deemed allowable such as work details, etc.

Furthermore, they must comply with all requirements as outlined in Addendum A.

Addendum A

PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

S.W. Johnson Engine Company #2 Probationary Firefighter Program Guidelines

The Probationary Firefighter Program was instituted by the S.W. Johnson Engine Company as a training program for young men and women, aged 16-18, interested in serving their community and preparing to become an unrestricted firefighter. At age 18, the Firefighter is eligible to become an unrestricted member of the Wappingers Falls Fire Department/ S.W. Johnson Engine Company.

As a Probationary Restricted Firefighter, members serve in a support role for the unrestricted firefighters at actual emergencies as a supplement to a formal training program. The Firefighters attend monthly training drills with the full Department. An unrestricted member serves as the Probationary Firefighter training officer, and he is the primary contact person for the Probationary Firefighter. Those selected are expected to act in a mature manner and commit to a demanding, long-term program.

In both training sessions and actual emergency situations, the safety of the Probationary Firefighter is of paramount concern to the Department. As such, the activities of the probationary Firefighters are limited in scope and the fire officers closely supervise them. The Probationary Firefighters quickly become an integral part of the firefighting team during emergencies, serving in such important capacities as establishing a water supply, supplying equipment for interior firefighters, changing air packs, manning exterior hose lines and assisting with interior overhaul once a fire has been extinguished. It should be understood, however, that despite the training and supervision provided, **firefighting is a dangerous activity and serious injury or death are a possibility**. The fire officers will make every effort to minimize the Probationary Firefighters' exposure to danger. It is also the responsibility of the Probationary Firefighter to avoid known hazardous situations.

Due to the inherent dangers of firefighting, strict rules of conduct and tight procedural standards have been established. In an actual emergency, it is essential that all firefighters, including Probationary Firefighters, act in a calm and efficient manner. The Probationary Firefighters are expected to attend training drills to be prepared for the many challenges presented in an emergency situation. Each member is expected to read and understand these requirements and to adhere to the standards.

Eligibility

1. Any resident of the Village of Wappingers Falls or any Neighboring Jurisdictions, between the ages of 16-18, may make application for membership in the S.W. Johnson Engine Company Probationary Firefighter Program.
2. The applicant must be in good academic standing at his/her school at the time of application and during the period of membership as a Probationary Firefighter. The Probationary Firefighter is requested to show his/her academic grades twice during the school year to a company officer.
3. The applicant must complete an application, including a medical authorization and police background check. Included with the application is a parental consent that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. **A parent or legal guardian must also be present during the application investigation meeting.** The application must be approved by the Membership and the Probationary Firefighter training officer.

General Rules

1. Probationary Firefighters represent the Wappingers Falls Fire Department and The S.W. Johnson Engine Company and are expected to be professional, courteous and respectful to fellow firefighters and emergency service personnel and all citizens served. The S.W. Johnson Engine Company will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time. Probationary Firefighters may not wear any article of clothing that, in the opinion of a fire officer, would be offensive to the public served. Violations will result in disciplinary action, and may include suspension.
 2. The S.W. Johnson Engine Company maintains a "**zero tolerance**" policy with respect to drug and alcohol use and violation of public laws. Any possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, on The S.W. Johnson Engine Company premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in The S.W. Johnson Engine Company uniform will result in immediate and dismissal from the S.W. Johnson Engine Company Probationary Firefighter Program. Firefighters may not smoke on premises or apparatus, emergency scene, training drill, official function, or while in uniform. Any arrest or conviction for a crime will result in a review of the circumstances by the, The S.W. Johnson Engine Company Members and may result in disciplinary action, including permanent suspension.
 3. Firefighters may not use or display emergency identification on their personal vehicle (e.g., Blue lights and fire department plates).
 4. Probationary Firefighters may not enter The S.W. Johnson Engine Company unless a senior member of the department is present, and is approved by such member. Probationary Firefighters may not bring friends into a fire station or permit them to be aboard fire apparatus.
 5. Probationary Firefighters are not permitted to attend overnight stand-by details (will be released from a stand-by not later than 10:00 PM)
 6. Probationary Firefighters may not borrow WFFD equipment for personal use.
 7. Probationary Firefighters may not operate WFFD vehicles.
 8. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, and cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, air bags and Hurst Tools are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his/her designee. Tool use is for training purposes only. A Probationary Firefighter may not operate any of these tools an emergency scene. Full protective gear, including gloves and eye covering, must be worn by the Probationary Firefighter when operating any of these tools.
 9. Probationary Firefighters may climb WFFD ground ladders or aerial ladder for training purposes only. Any ladder use must be under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his/her designee. A ladder belt or safety harness and full protective gear must be worn at all times. Ladders or aerial equipment of another fire department may not be used by the Probationary Firefighter without the consent of a fire officer from the other department and a S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer.
 10. Probationary Firefighters are not to participate in any activity, including emergencies, during school hours. Probationary Firefighters are not to leave school, or a school sponsored activity, for an emergency response. Probationary Firefighters are not to respond to any alarm dispatched after 9:30 PM on a school night (Sunday-Thursday).
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11. Probationary Firefighters must attend a minimum of 50% of training drills or meetings conducted each year. Probationary Firefighters are not required to respond to emergency calls.

12. Probationary Firefighters are responsible for the care of all WFFD gear issued to them, and are financially responsible for loss or damage from other than official use as a Probationary Firefighter.
13. Probationary Firefighters may not fill SCBA air bottles, and are to remain clear of the filling area when air bottles are being filled.
14. No firefighter is to ride on a truck step. All firefighters are to be seated in the truck cab with a seatbelt on when the apparatus is in motion. Probationary Firefighters may not repack hose from the hose bed if the apparatus is in motion.
15. Probationary Firefighters should respond to the firehouse or as directed by the Wappingers Falls Fire Department Chief or S.W. Johnson Company Captain via a standing assignment order.
16. Report any injury to a S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer or safety officer.

Emergency Response

1. Probationary Firefighters may respond to emergency alarms, except as outlined in (2) and (3) below. Probationary Firefighters should respond to the firehouse or as directed by the Wappingers Falls Fire Department Chief or S.W. Johnson Company Captain via a standing assignment order. Probationary Firefighters may respond on apparatus if seats are available (Probationary Firefighters will relinquish seats to senior firefighters as needed). Probationary Firefighters are under the command of The S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officers from the time of their arrival at the station or emergency scene until released from duty by a fire officer. If no officer is aboard the apparatus, the Probationary Firefighter will be under the command of the driver until reassigned to a fire officer. Firefighters are not to leave an emergency scene without the knowledge and consent of a fire officer (each Probationary firefighter is to speak with a fire officer directly, not via a third party).
2. Probationary Firefighters may not respond to an emergency alarm relating to a hazardous material incident, biological or nuclear hazard, explosive device, terrorist incident, police jurisdiction/crime scene assistance or mass casualty (defined as one likely to involve four or more individuals seriously injured or killed- such as an incident involving a train, aircraft or bus accident). Probationary Firefighters are not to respond to a mutual aid alarm outside of Wappingers Falls Fire Department Jurisdiction.
3. Prior to responding to alarms, the Probationary Firefighter must be trained, and demonstrate proficiency in the use of SCBA equipment. Probationary Firefighter use of SCBA equipment at an emergency scene is reserved for defensive, escape purposes only. A Probationary Firefighter is to remain well clear of an area of operation requiring use of supplemental breathing air.
4. Probationary Firefighters must wear all protective gear while riding on the apparatus and at an emergency scene.
5. Under no circumstances is a Probationary Firefighter to enter a burning structure, confined space or underground area, or area subject to a collapse hazard. Once a fire has been brought under control, and the building determined to be structurally sound and free of hazardous materials and toxic gas, the Probationary Firefighter may enter the building if accompanied **at all times** by a The S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer or his/her designee. This must be with the consent of the Fire Chief. Probationary Firefighters may operate exterior hose lines under the direction of a fire officer or his/her designee.. At an emergency scene, a Probationary Firefighter may not climb a ladder or operate from a roof or other elevated position. At an emergency scene, a Probationary Firefighter may not operate any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting device.

6. Upon arrival at an emergency scene, a Probationary Firefighter is not to enter a private dwelling or other structure with interior firefighters for investigation or emergency action of any type. Probationary Firefighters are to remain with the apparatus or in close proximity to the incident commander, and await specific orders from a S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer. If the Probationary Firefighter receives orders from an officer (or request from a firefighter) of another fire department, it is incumbent upon the Probationary Firefighter to advise that officer or firefighter of his/her status as a Probationary Firefighter and the limitations placed upon him/her.

7. All orders received from a fire officer are to be obeyed and executed completely. If, due to safety concerns or for any other reason, the Probationary Firefighter is unable to complete an assigned task, the officer issuing the order, or another officer in his/her absence, should be immediately notified by the Probationary Firefighter who received the order.

8. At an emergency alarm involving downed power lines or gas leak, the Probationary Firefighter must remain aboard the apparatus until the area of operation for the Probationary Firefighter is determined to be safe by a S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer.

9. Probationary Firefighters may not direct traffic.

10. Probationary Firefighters are not to make any public comments or make statements to the media or via social media at the time of an emergency incident, or following the incident, concerning conditions relating to the emergency scene. Examples of comments to avoid are the cause and origin of a fire, condition of fire victims, condition of a home interior or fire fighting technique. All public inquiries are to be referred to the incident commander or Wappingers Falls Fire Dept. Chief. It should be understood by the Probationary Firefighter that fire inspectors or arson investigators and other governmental officials are required to inspect certain types of damage- their presence may in no way indicate suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the property owner. Firefighters must also understand that individuals whose property has been damaged or destroyed and/or family members injured or killed are extremely sensitive to the statements and actions of emergency personnel. Probationary firefighters are expected to demonstrate the utmost of respect and compassion for these individuals in both their words and actions.

11. Valuables found at an emergency scene are to be immediately turned over to a S.W. Johnson Engine Company fire officer or police officer. Theft by a Probationary Firefighter will result in an immediate dismissal from the Probationary Firefighter Program and the appropriate police agency will be notified.

12. Probationary Firefighters are not to have any direct contact with an injured person or dead body unless properly certified (First Responder, EMT or Paramedic), and then only at the direction of a fire officer or EMS crew chief. Report any accidental contact with blood or other bodily fluid to a fire officer or safety officer immediately, so that medical treatment can be initiated promptly.

Objective

The Probationary Firefighter Program is for teens between the ages of 16 and 18. As these members reach 18 years old, they become eligible for Active Membership. Our goal is to give them a sense of belonging and fulfillment. It gives them the chance to see what firefighters do and to learn the basics. We are looking for individuals that are willing to work as part of a team, be able to take commands from Officers, be able to serve in a professional manner, and be able to attend the regular trainings and meetings.

Applicant/ Parents or Guardians:

I / We hereby certify that we have read and understand the rules and regulations for Probationary Firefighters and agree to permit our child to participate as a Probationary Firefighter of the S.W. Johnson Engine Company #2

Applicant signature:

X _____

Parents or Guardians signature

X _____